

April 6, 2011

Volume 2, Number 3

AZ ASSIST April Meeting

2150 East Southern Avenue, Tempe
Northwest corner of the 101 & Southern Avenue
on the campus of Ed Options.

Topic: Special Needs Planning

Bart Stevens of Bart Stevens Special Needs Planning will be the speaker at our April 18th meeting. He is a wealth of information about how SSI, SSDI, and inheritance affect government benefits. He will also provide tips for planning for the future for our kids. Here's a link to an interview: <http://tinyurl.com/BartStevens>

Teens & Young Adults may attend the presentation or socialize with video games and/or arts & crafts. Fee for teens and young adults is \$5.00 – cash preferred. No charge for parents and professionals.

Next Month:

On May 16th Barb Ross, Parent Information Network (PIN) specialist for the Arizona Department of Education will be speaking on "Transitional Goals in IEPs". For those with children out of high school, there will be a "Sharing n' Caring" (open discussion) on the joys and challenges of the postsecondary years held in the next room.

Last Call for Video Games Live!

We have a couple of FREE tickets left for teens & young adults on the Autism Spectrum for the concert on Thursday April 7th at 7:30pm at the Mesa Arts Center on Main & Center in Mesa. Email Debbie at azparentsupport@cox.net if you'd like to attend.

Recognition & Kuddos

Last month, Kyla and Cinder McDonald attended the Allies in Self Advocacy Summit in Los Angeles as part of the Arizona team, representing AZ ASSIST and the AZ Autism community. <http://alliesinselfadvocacy.org/>. Kyla was the youngest person there and she not only co-presented, but she spoke out about the need to accommodate those on special diets and the importance of using youth friendly language. As a result of the Summit, AZ ASSIST is now connecting with other organizations and exploring future possibilities. To learn why self-advocacy is so important, see our page: <http://tinyurl.com/azassistadvocacy>

Does your teen/young adult have a recent accomplishment that you'd like to share? For instance, who is graduating this May and from where? Please email azparentsupport@cox.net

AZ ASSIST Social Activities – Future Planning

AZ ASSIST teens and young adults enjoy hanging out together, wouldn't you agree? Our goal is to provide that opportunity at our meetings plus one additional opportunity each month. Getting together with other teens and young adults provides all kinds of benefits:

- socializing instead of isolating

- *learning to navigate social interactions*
- *experiencing new venues*
- *managing money and a schedule*

Would you like to continue to have opportunities like these? Then we need your help. We would LOVE to hear from any family who would like to help plan an activity.

Our immediate need is an activity in May. Who's on first?

Contact Debbie at azparentsupport@cox.net

AZ ASSIST Website

The AZ ASSIST website has had a lot of updates recently! If you haven't been to www.azassist.com in a while, come and check out the changes. Our look will be changing soon, as Brian is working on version 2.0 of the website. Our current site that we've built over the last several years, is a free site built in Wetpaint, which is no longer supported by its developers, but the new site will be completely our own. The domain name, www.azassist.com will remain the same.

AZ ASSIST Volunteer Positions Available –

Who do you know?

Newsletter Editor - Organized, self-starter, good writing skills, resourceful, must be able to commit to 5-10 hours every month around the first week of the month.

Website development assistants - Must know WordPress and understand the basics of a CMS (content management system). CSS/Photoshop skills a plus. Ideal candidates would later become part of the site administration team.

Socials Coordinator - Plan and carry out community events for AZ ASSIST. Find venues, negotiate particulars, create flyers, publicize event to AZ ASSIST community, answer questions, and make things run smoothly during the event including taking money, coordinating other volunteers, directing people, etc. Approximately 10 hours/month, but could vary depending on the event. Could be a shared position.

Historian/Photographer - Takes photos at AZ ASSIST events, records video as necessary, helps us to remember where we have been during our journey. Creates and maintains archives of information such as past speakers, events we've been to, etc. Interviews AZ ASSIST members about their experiences with AZ ASSIST. There are more hours up front needed with this position during the building phase, but would drop to 5 hours/month once established.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

SEEDs for Autism News

SEEDs Saturday Class

Have you wanted your young adult to participate in SEEDs for Autism, but can't do it during the week? SEEDs provides Saturday classes once a month. Learn more: www.seedsforautism.org

SEEDs for Autism Fundraiser on April 9, 2011

Please join SEEDs for Autism for a night of fun at their first fund raising event hosted by The Phoenix Rock Gym! The Rock Gym is an amazing 3 story facility, with over 15,000 square feet of climbing surfaces for climbers of all ages and experience levels. The Phoenix Rock Gym has

generously donated their facility to host the Event! They will be keeping their staff of professional climbers on hand for the evening to teach and assist new climbers. [Click here for additional information.](#) Your evening will include:

*An array of culinary treats and desserts to indulge upon and sample
The latest products produced by SEEDs participants for your buying pleasure
Wine tasting stations & Live music
All for the low price of only \$45.00.
[Click here to reserve and purchase your ticket.](#)*

Bart Stevens Special Needs Planning

Bart Stevens, our favorite Special Needs Planning professional, is offering a discount on initial consultations for AZ ASSIST families. Just mention AZ ASSIST or contact Debbie at azparentsupport@cox.net for a discount certificate.

Registration for Camp Challenge

Camp Challenge is a summer day camp for children and adults ages 5-22 with developmental disabilities. Campers will participate in a variety of fun activities: arts and crafts, games, swimming, music, field trips, bowling, as well as many other adventures! We're going to have more facility space this year at camp and we'll be introducing some new programs and activities!

Camp is located at Bustoz Elementary School, 2020 E. Carson Drive in Tempe during the months of June and July. Registration nights will be scheduled during the months of April and May so you can get registered for camp early and have the opportunity to meet the camp staff. Registration packets and more details will be posted to the website in the next week.

Visit the website at www.tempe.gov/adaptedrecreation

to download the registration packet. Registration nights have been scheduled for 4/11, 4/14, and 4/20 from 6-8pm. Registration spaces are limited so please register as soon as possible.

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| <u>Session One:</u> | <u>Session Two:</u> |
| <u>Mondays through Thursdays, 8am – 2pm</u> | <u>Mondays through Thursdays, 8am – 2pm</u> |
| <u>June 7 (Tuesday) – June 30</u> | <u>July 5 (Tuesday) – July 21</u> |
| <u>Fee: \$110*</u> | <u>Fee: \$90*</u> |

Adventure Stage (ages 13-19)

Part of the Phoenix Theatre Summer Camp series, youth with ASD will explore all of the teen camp activities alongside typical peers. Group facilitation and support are being provided by SARRC. Arrangements may be made for you to involve your private provider should your teen require one-on-one support. Adventure Stage campers attend half days except for full days on Fridays so they can be part of the performance.

Dates: June 6-July 1

Cost: \$100/week or \$300 all four weeks

Space is limited

Time: 9:00am – 12:30pm, Mon – Fri

Adventure Stage parents must first contact SARRC representative Brad Herron at 602-340-8717. Once you have provided SARRC with necessary information you may register for camp through Phoenix Theatre. For questions, contact camps@phoenixtheatre.com.

Parents of Asperger Adults

[Saturday, April 9th 12:30 - 3:30pm. Pyle Adult Center, Rural & Southern in Tempe](#)

Autistic Self Advocacy Network - AZ Chapter

[Friday, April 8th 6:30-8:30pm Disability Empowerment Center](#)

What is Independent Living?

(from <http://autismnow.org/in-the-community/promoting-inclusion/independent-living/>)

Independent Living is a model and movement that actively promotes the social paradigm that people with disabilities are the best experts regarding their own needs, have crucial and valuable perspectives to contribute, and should have equal opportunity to decide on all life decisions, including where to work, how to live, how to take part in their communities, and how to deal with services that significantly impact their daily lives and independence. To learn more about how self-advocacy, please check out this link from the AZ ASSIST website:

<http://tinyurl.com/azassistadvocacy1>

Peter Gerhardt !!!

A favorite speaker of ours, Peter Gerhardt, is returning to the Valley on Friday, May 6th from 1-4pm at SARRC Vocational & Life Skills Academy (VLSA), 2225 N. 16th Street, Phoenix. (If you want to see more family-friendly time slots for events like these - Please tell SARRC!)

Event details: http://www.autismcenter.org/event_details.aspx?id=396 He is speaking on: **Research & Evidence-Based Practice in Adaptive Behavior: Notes from the Forgotten Frontier**. Don't let the long title intimidate you, in layman's terms his focus is on using what is simple, practical and effective. It's \$25/person.

Youth Action Council of Arizona (YAC-AZ)

Our new friends, The Youth Action Council of Arizona (YAC-AZ), will be speaking at SARRC Vocational & Life Skills Academy (VLSA), 2225 N. 16th Street, Phoenix. on Tuesday, April 26th, 4:30-6:30pm on Self Advocacy for Tweens and Teens. \$10/attendee, free for those with ASD.

Event details: http://www.autismcenter.org/event_details.aspx?id=364 You can check out YAC-AZ's website at www.yakkit.org. The YAC-AZ meetings are posted on our calendar at www.azassist.com.

MY LIFE

MY LIFE is proud to announce their fourth annual youth festival, MY Fest '11, will take place Saturday, April 23, 2011, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Tempe Beach Park! MY Fest '10 drew a crowd of nearly 5,000 people, more than doubling the 2009 event attendance, and featured 80 community and social service organizations that serve youth and families. MY Fest '11 is expected to be even bigger and better than ever!
<http://tinyurl.com/azassistmylife>

Autism Society of Greater Phoenix Conference

The 12th annual Autism Society of Greater Phoenix conference will be held 8:30am-5pm, **May 13th-14th**, 2011 at Scottsdale Bible Church (SE corner of Miller and Shea Boulevard) 7601 East Shea Boulevard, Scottsdale, AZ 85260. The keynote speakers are: Diana Henry, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA (sensory tools) and Sean Barron (co-authored with Temple Grandin). For more information on speakers and to register,

<http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=944355> Financial Aid is available, so contact us today!!

Autistics on Autism Conference

The Autistics on Autism Conference, a conference that provides autistics and families an opportunity to teach other about autism from the autistic's point of view, will be held **April 29-30** starting at 8am at Covenant of Grace Christian Fellowship Church, 906 W. Peoria, Phoenix. Contact: Jason Bunn-Parsons [\(623\) 205-7961](tel:6232057961) or AutismAmbassadors@yahoo.com.

Budget Cuts & Dwindling Services

Concerned how dwindling services for your child might be affected by the next round of state budget cuts? Check out www.pafco.org or www.azchildren.org for the latest information.